

Jefferson Memorial Forest
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Fairdale, KY 40118

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Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council



Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org

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Director

Jerry Brown
Assistant Director

Bennett Knox
Park Manager

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*Naturalist/
Land Management*

Tonya Swan
*Coordinator of
Public Education*

Christa Weidner
Naturalist/Programs

James Crockett
Shawn Nevins
*Recreation
Coordinators*

TRAIL RANGER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering, contact Forest Naturalist Larry Hilton at larry.hilton@louisvilleky.gov or call 502/797-5768.

PROJECT DAY

Sat, July 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Clear trails of vegetation while monitoring trails and assisting hikers. Gloves, long pants, proper footwear, water and snack recommended.

PROJECT DAY

Sat, August 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Clearing, monitoring trails and assisting hikers.

CAMPOUT AT TRAIL RANGER CAMPSITE

Sat, August 28, 6 p.m.

Join our group for an overnight stay in the Horine Section. Extra camping equipment is available.

PROJECT DAY

Sat, September 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Trail maintenance, patrols, assisting hikers.

GROUP HIKE

Sat, September 23rd

Meet at Welcome Center at 8 a.m.

Day hike at Clifty Falls or Red River Gorge.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The Forest is always in need of items to supplement our program offerings and enhance visitor experiences. We are currently seeking donations for the following items. If you would like to assist by contributing towards the purchase of these items, you may send a check made payable to the Jefferson Memorial Forest with a signed and dated letter stating the amount of your donation and its intended purpose (i.e., contribution towards purchase of items below). Or you can always make a donation on your next visit to the Welcome Center. Donations are tax deductible; check with your tax consultant. Contributions are sincerely appreciated.

- Interactive nature exhibit for our Welcome Center lobby: \$8,000
- Teepee for our Native American Earth Keepers program: \$3,000
- Laptop computer to support our field-based programs: \$1,500
- Utility shed for storage supplies, including our archery program equipment: \$1,200

YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

SUMMER
2006



GREETINGS FOREST NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!

This issue of the forest newsletter is being sent to every resident who owns property adjoining the forest. That is 435 neighbors in all! Our apologies to those who may not appreciate the unsolicited mail. However, we wanted to give those living adjacent to the forest an opportunity to learn more about their local nature preserve and also the chance to sign up to receive future newsletters at no charge. If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time and have not already signed up for our mailing list, please take a moment to send us an e-mail at forest@louisvilleky.gov or give us a call at 368-5404, ext 0.

The other reason we wanted to send this newsletter to our forest neighbors is to begin a dialog concerning some of the more pressing issues facing the health of the Jefferson Memorial Forest and discuss how you as a forest neighbor can help. There are four main issues that we will highlight, illegal dumping; creeping invasive plant species; illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other off-road vehicles on park property; and encroachment issues. The next four issues of the forest newsletter will highlight each of these issues in greater detail, including describing the impacts which are occurring; outlining our efforts to combat these negative impacts; presenting the relevant ordinances and other agency contacts dealing with these issues, and also providing information which interested neighbors can utilize to assist Metro Parks in our efforts to solve these pressing issues.

Finally, we would like to mention that this fall Metro Parks begins work on a new Master Plan for the forest. This master plan will include specific recommendations for improved recreation amenities and public education facilities throughout the forest. We look forward to this exciting new chapter in the forest's development.

Funding for this plan was secured by former District 13 Councilman Ron Weston (now District 37 State Representative) and is being supported by current District 13 Councilwoman Vicki Welch. As we move forward there will be significant opportunity for public comment and we will be sure to publicize relevant progress within these pages.

We hope that you will sign up to receive future newsletters and that you will share this opportunity with your neighbors down the road. It will take all of us working together in the spirit of community to preserve this wonderful natural resource for the benefit of this and future generations of nature lovers.



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Welcome Center

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center
is your destination
for maps, gift items,
program reservations,
camping reservations,
permits and
interpretation.

Directions

From I-65 south take the
Sandy Snyder Freeway (I-263)
west and exit at New Cut Road.
Turn left, go about one mile,
and turn right onto
Mitchell Hill Road.
Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

Metro Parks' mission
is to provide safe, diverse
park and recreation facilities
and programs for all the
people of Louisville Metro
to use and enjoy
and to keep those lands
and resources in trust
for future generations.



CORPORATE TEAM-BUILDING IN THE FOREST

"This has universal appeal for corporate growth as well as individuals' development."

Since 1991, the Jefferson Memorial Forest has provided teambuilding programs for corporate, civic, educational, church, and government organizations in Louisville Metro and surrounding areas. We offer on- and off-site programs addressing teambuilding fundamentals such as leadership, trust, conflict, communication, change, and humor.

"This really made us think and discuss."

Our teambuilding programs utilize experiential learning methods such as:

- indoor and outdoor problem-solving activities
- facilitated discussion
- our low ropes (challenge) course
- an Alpine climbing tower
- scavenger hunts
- map and compass courses
- the Mini-Expedition, an outdoor rescue scenario

"The 'games' were enlightening and taught us how to become a unit quickly."

The choice of activities depends on your team's needs and abilities. We are experienced with designing programs to fit a wide range of ages and physical requirements. For more information, contact Shawn Nevins, program facilitator, at 502/366-5432 or shawn.nevins@louisvilleky.gov.

"We learned a lot about each other."



FOREST FEST 2006

This year's Forest Fest was a smashing success! It exceeded everyone's expectations. Over 1,400 people gathered at Jefferson Memorial Forest's Horine Reservation for an afternoon of great Bluegrass music, great food and lots of old-fashioned family fun! Thanks to all of you who joined us and, to those who missed out, we hope to see you there next year!

This event would not have been possible without the help of some very generous people. We wish to thank the following sponsors for their support. Their generosity is what makes this event possible and free to the public. Please be sure to thank them the next time you see them, or send them a note.

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rick Blackwell, District 12 Robert Henderson, District 14
Vicki Welch, District 13 Madonna Flood, District 24
Ron Weston, State Representative for House District 37

The Bull Dog Cafe	First Quality Music	Wal-Mart
Fairdale PicPac	Natural Health	
Fairdale-McDaniel Funeral Homes	Precision Built Homes	

OTHER SUPPORTERS

Bluegrass Anonymous	Fairdale Lions Club	Lonesome Towne Records
Berk Bryant	Falls Cities	Sue Reid
Cherokee Road Runners	Wood Carver's Guild	Sarah Seelye
Linda Duncan	Brenda Gutmann	South Park Country Club
Fairdale Feed and Hardware	Vilma Jones	Stone Hollow
Fairdale Florist and Gift Shop		



OUR BANDS

Kentucky Sassafras
Hog Operation
The Old Louisville Express
Stone Hollow

THE FOREST FEST COMMITTEE

Polly Mayer	Dennis Strobe
Bill Neagle	Bob Warren
Kathy Neagle	Joan Wood

ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER

SNAKES, LIZARDS, AND TURTLES IN THE FOREST

These cold-blooded animals are well known to many people who either love them or hate them. During the warm sunny days you will probably see these reptiles basking in the sun on logs, rocks, trees, and many other locations. During the very hot days they will probably be in the shade, escaping the hot rays of the sun.

In July, reptiles will be laying eggs. You may notice a water turtle that has traveled away from a pond, lake or creek. This is most likely a female turtle looking for an area to make her nest. However, turtle hatchlings may not be seen until next year. You can find lizard hatchlings now through the end of summer, and snake hatchlings will most likely emerge around the end of summer and in early fall.

Reptiles have a diverse diet. Turtles are omnivores eating both plants and animals. Lizards (in Kentucky) and snakes are carnivores, eating insects, spiders, birds, mammals, amphibians, fish, and other reptiles. Snakes especially are very beneficial to humans by eating pest animals such as rodents; they keep the rodent population in check. So what keeps the reptile population in check? You can thank carnivorous and omnivorous birds, mammals, snakes, lizards, and bullfrogs.



Adult Skink

That leaves 19 non-venomous species. Venomous and non-venomous snakes have basic differences. The venomous snakes have pupils that are vertical like a cat and their head has a triangular shape. However, many non-venomous snakes can mimic the shape of the head and appear to have rattles by vibrating their tails. The best thing to do if you see a snake is to leave it alone and give it some space. Eventually it will head away from you. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources offers a great booklet that identifies snakes of Kentucky. You can request one by calling 1-800/858-1549. If you would like to learn more about snakes, you can visit Jefferson Memorial Forest for Snake Appreciation Day, Saturday, September 16, from noon to 8 p.m.

Turtles at the Forest

Reptiles can be found just about anywhere. During a hike at Jefferson Memorial Forest you may find a box turtle crossing the path or a red-eared slider basking on a log at Tom Wallace Lake. Snakes can be seen quickly retreating into the forest or basking near the red-eared slider. Lizards will race for cover under the leaves on the forest floor or bask on a rotting log. You never know what you will see when moving quietly through the forest.

If you are fearful of snakes, just remember there are only two kinds of venomous snakes in Jefferson Memorial Forest: the copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. The latter has been rarely seen, although the only report of a melanistic timber rattler was found in Jefferson Memorial Forest about 10 years ago. A melanistic animal is one that has very dark to black pigmentation, instead of its normal coloration.



Box Turtle



FAIRMOUNT FALLS VISIT

On a cool Saturday morning, I made the short drive out Bardstown Road to Thixton Lane. Reminiscent of a country road, Thixton led to the tiny treasure called Fairmount Falls – one of the newest parcels in Metro Parks' Natural Areas Division. While parking is limited and access is currently by permit only, the allure of Fairmount Falls is immediately apparent. Stepping out of my truck, I was greeted by an old stone foundation, pockmarked boulders, the sound of water in the distance, and a set of stone steps leading to a 1.1 mile trail.

Some clever trail work leads you in a few minutes to the namesake falls. In fact, the trail crosses the small stream that created the falls. Fairmount Falls has a small, gentle flow of water that has steadily carved away a steep valley over thousands of years. Standing at the top of the falls gives a unique view of this process. Be careful to not venture near the edge because the rocks are slippery and the fall is 40 feet!

Past the falls, the trail skirts the exposed rock walls of the valley and passes through a grove of mature cedar trees. A lone house is visible uphill to the left. The trail is easy to follow and mostly free of rocks and roots. Heading down towards the confluence with another stream, the trail ends at a .10 mile loop, then retraces its route. Many deer tracks were evident, and I spotted two on the return trip keeping just ahead of this lone visitor to their home.

Though only eight acres, the lack of development and traffic in the area lent a quiet broken this day only by the sounds of water, wind, and my footsteps. I highly recommend a visit.

Please call 368-5404 ext. 0 to make arrangements to pick up a permit and lock combination. Requests are accepted Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center. Please allow 24 hours processing time. A permit request form can be found at www.metro-parks.org (look for Fairmount Falls under the Park Finder).

Shawn Nevins





SNAKE APPRECIATION DAY

Love them or hate them, these limbless reptiles fascinate everybody. This is the fifth annual Snake Appreciation Day and this year's event promises to be bigger than ever! There will be more speakers, more activities, food and of course more snakes! Forest staff and the Kentucky Herpetological Society will share interesting and little known facts about these misunderstood creatures. We will have presentations for those just learning about snakes as well as in-depth talks from experts in the field of herpetology. There will be face painting and activities and crafts for the kids to make and take home. The event begins at noon. Activities and demonstrations will take place around the Horine Environmental Education Center. This program is for all ages.

New this year is "Snakes With Your Dinner," an evening of learning and good food—although we swear snakes aren't on the menu! Be sure to reserve your catered box dinner and a spot for this incredible evening of education. "Snakes With Your Dinner" is for ages 12 and up, and takes place in the Horine Conference Center.

This evening program begins at 6 p.m. with "Kentucky's Snake Populations," presented by Will Bird of the Louisville Zoological Gardens and Phil Peak, herpetologist. Their program includes a presentation detailing the species of snakes they have encountered in the past several years, the relative abundance of each, the habitat in which the snakes are found and their methods for finding them.

Their program is followed by internationally recognized herpetologist Jim Harrison of the Kentucky Reptile Zoo. His program covers his research with venomous snakes and how their venom may someday provide miracle drugs that save thousands of lives. His work with snakes has been the subject of several National Geographic Specials, such as *Reptile Rulers—Rattlesnake Road Trip*, which will be broadcast on Saturday, July 29, at 10:30 a.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

Bring your camera, but please do not bring any reptile pets. Call the Welcome Center at 368-5404 and we will be happy to send you a program of the day's events and give you directions to the Environmental Education Center. Family campsites and group campsites are available. Please ask our reservationist for more information and prices. There will be early morning herp hikes for those that would like to sign up as part of their camping experience. There is no additional charge.

The day program is free to the public. "Snakes With Your Dinner" is \$10 per person, which includes your meal. Reservations are required for the evening program as space is limited. Tickets will be mailed to you, and are required at the door.



SNAKE APPRECIATION DAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006
NOON-6 P.M.

Children's Activities

- Face painting
- Crafts
- Children's programs

Food Vendors

Presentations

- "Herp Haven: Rescuing Reptiles in Kentuckiana"
- "Selecting the Right Snake as a Pet"
- "Proper Care for Your Herps"
- "Native Snakes of Kentucky"
- Children's presentations

6 P.M.

Snakes With Your Dinner

- "Kentucky's Snake Populations"
Will Bird and Phil Peak,
Kentucky Herpetological Society
- "Venomous Snakes"
Jim Harrison, Kentucky Reptile Zoo

Camping (optional)

Sunday Morning Herp Hike



PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE – SUMMER 2006

We offer programs for all ages.

Preregistration is required and a discount is offered for those who pay in advance.

For more information, visit our website at www.memorialforest.com or call the Welcome Center at 368-5404. Staff will make reservations, give directions, or provide a schedule of our programs.

For all programs, wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather. Those 18 and under must be accompanied by adults.

OUTDOOR SKILLS

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Program meets in the Welcome Center.

Fee: \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

#8 – OUTDOOR WOMAN – CAMPING SKILLS

Saturday, August 5, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Metro Parks staff will show you how to prepare for an outdoor excursion, set up camp, cook a meal over the camp fire, and provide tips on getting the most from your outdoor experiences. A campsite discount will be offered to participants.

#9 – FALL WILDFLOWERS

Saturday, September 2

Fall is an excellent time to find a wide variety of colorful flowers! Learn to identify the native wildflowers that come out in the fall. These plants are of great benefit to animals as they prepare for winter. Some of the wild berries that appear at this time will be highlighted as well. A hike guided by a Metro Parks naturalist will be part of this program. Participants are welcome to bring a beverage, snack, and their own guidebooks if they wish.



GARDENING IN JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST'S NATIVE GARDENS

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 7

Must register by 12:30 Friday, August 4, for lunch

Monday, September 4

Must register by 12:30 Friday, September 1, for lunch

Naturalist Christa Weidner will guide participants in a variety of garden projects that teach, as well as maintain and improve the beauty of the Native and Butterfly gardens. There will be things to learn, as participants do such things as light weeding, transplanting, and pruning. Wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothes suitable for the outdoors. Participants are welcome to bring garden gloves, but we will have extra on hand. Cold water will be provided. Seniors may order a box lunch when registering for this outing, to be enjoyed at the Forest after the program. Free to Seniors 60 and over; although a donation to the Senior Nutrition Program is suggested. There is a \$4 charge for participants 59 and younger. Seniors can meet at the Fairdale Playtorium for free shuttle service. Other volunteers can meet at the Horine Environmental Education Center. *Fee:* Free

PRE-SCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

This program is for parents and children ages 2 to 4. Bring your little ones along for a short hike of discovery and then meet some of the animals that call the Forest home. There will be a story-time with craft and snacks. Ask about series discounts. Program meets at the Horine Environmental Education Center. *Fee:* \$8 per child.

TOTALLY TURTLES

Tuesday, August 1

Can turtles leave their shell behind? Are they the slowest animals in the world? Find out and meet some of our Forest turtles up close.

SSSNAKES!

Tuesday, September 5

Discover the secrets of snakes. Feel for yourself if they are truly slimy and learn many more fascinating facts about these misunderstood creatures.

NIGHT HIKES

7:30 -10 p.m.

Fee: \$5 with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.*

Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

EVENING CANOE EXCURSION

Friday, August 11

By the light of the full moon, experience the tranquility of the evening as you drift on a Metro Parks lake. You will see animals as they emerge and begin foraging for food along the lake's edge. Be sure to wear bug repellent. For ages 7 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Program meets at the Welcome Center. Register early as space is very limited for this special program! Due to specific space requirements, preregistration and prepayment are mandatory. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. There is space for 16 participants total, with a maximum of 10 adults.

**Fee:* \$10

NIGHT HIKE – EVENING ALPINE TOWER CLIMB

Friday, September 8

Come challenge yourself with a night climb on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Bring a headlamp if you want, or climb the tower by the light of the full moon. This is a once a year program, so don't miss out. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence, and problem-solving skills from tackling this "high altitude" obstacle course. This program is for ages 7 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts (with inseam greater than 5"). Sign-up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Meets in the Horine Reservation.

Fee: \$10 with pre-registration; \$15 if paid the day of the program.



PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE – SUMMER 2006



HOWL AT THE MOON

7 -8:30 p.m.

Friday, July 21

Friday, August 18

Friday, September 15

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog. Metro Parks staff will lead owners and their pooches on an easy hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

Fee: \$5 per dog with pre-registration; \$7.50 if paid the day of the program.

FOREST FAMILY CAMP-OUT – SURVIVOR

Fri. July 28 – Sat. July 29, 6 p.m. Friday until 8:30 a.m. Saturday

Learn some of the skills you need to be a real “Survivor!” Metro Parks staff will teach you the skills as you test your family’s strategy against other families. We will provide your family with tents, freshly laundered sleeping bags (upon request), dinner, and breakfast. We’ll even provide a S’more bedtime treat. All you need to bring is your toothbrush, a pillow, good walking shoes, and weather appropriate clothes. This program is for ages 7 to adult. Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

To participate in the program you must be pre-registered and pre-paid by Monday, July 24.

Fee: \$20 per person.

Please ask our reservationist about our next-day Alpine Tower Climb discount.

ALPINE TOWER PUBLIC PROGRAM

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 29

Saturday, August 26

Saturday, September 23

Come challenge yourself on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence, and problem-solving skills from tackling this “high altitude” obstacle course. This program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts (with inseam greater than 5”). Sign-up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Program meets in the Horine Reservation. *Fee:* \$10 per person with pre-registration; \$15 if paid the day of the program.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT!

Interested in Seasonal Natural Resources?

The Jefferson Memorial Forest is accepting applications for seasonal positions.

Land Management Aide

Duties: Trail construction and maintenance. Assisting with meadow and woodland restoration, including tree planting and removal of invasive species.

Basic plant identification skill; chainsaw operation beneficial.

General Requirements. Must be able to:

- Lift and carry up to 70 lbs
- Walk long distances carrying and operating weed-eaters or chainsaws
- Spend long periods of time bending or standing
- Provide own transportation and have a good driving record

Minimum 18 years old for Land Management Aide

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT WWW.METRO-PARKS.ORG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 368-6856 OR VISIT WWW.MEMORIALFOREST.COM



**METRO
Parks**

Metro Parks is an equal-opportunity employer